

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
BB1 8EG

01254 698 335

office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: 13th March 2026



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There are now only two weeks until the Spring break and we have been really busy at school this week!

Well done to Year 6 who have had a run-through of what their SATs will be like in our 'mock' week. This is to make sure the children are comfortable with formal test conditions and are familiar with the process so it's not scary in May when they take their real SATs. Everyone worked really hard and hopefully, now all the children know what to expect.

Mr Newell (our Facilities Manager and Lollipop Person) has mentioned to me that parents are beginning to park on the yellow lines again. As the weather gets better, please try to walk to school if you can and help ease the traffic. It has been a lot better over the last year with the speed bumps, lollipop patrol, cones and generally with people driving and

parking more considerately – let's keep that up because ultimately, it keeps your children safe!

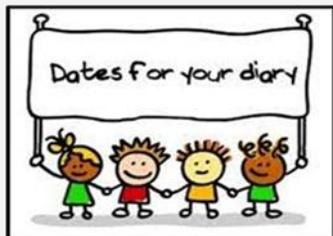
This is a very special time of year for Muslims and Christians within our school community as once again, Ramadan and Eid occur at a similar time as Lent and Easter. In the newsletter, you will find information about our special Eid and Easter lunches – we hope everyone will join in and enjoy the excellent food!

And finally, just a reminder that our Easter Church service will take place on Thursday 26th March as our traditional way of finishing off the Spring Term.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





Monday 23rd March 2026

Eid Lunch

Thursday 26th March 2026

Easter Church service

Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Lunch

Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Earth Day Lunch

Friday 17th April 2026

Year 1 Trip Blackpool Zoo

Monday 1st June – Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Winmarleigh Hall Residential



Year 6 Maths Club

Tue 3rd - 24th March 3:05pm-3:50pm

Year 6 Reading Club

Thurs 5th -26th March 3:05-3:50pm

There will be no Wellbeing Club this term. It will recommence in Summer 1





Happy Eid Al Fitr

Celebration Lunch

Halal Chicken Biryani,
Vegetables Samosa with Raita

or

Pasta Spirals & Tomato Sauce

or

Baked Jacket Potato with a choice of Filling.

Special Eid Treat

*Free for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 & Pupil
Premium children.*

£2.60 For Year 3,4,5 & 6

*Please head over to the School Spider app
right now to book your child's meal. Don't
miss out on the tastiest lunch of the week!*



Lancashire
County
Council

LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE



**St James' C of E
Primary School**

Headteacher: Mr D. Sticher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Easter Lunch

Friday 27th March 2026

**Halal Chicken & Pineapple
Pizza**

or

**Homemade Pizza
Margherita & Baked Chips**

or

**Harry Ramsden's Crispy
Battered Fish with Oven
Baked Chips**

**Choice of Easter Treat
Desserts**

**Free for Reception, Year 1, Year
2 & Pupil Premium children.
£2.60 For Year 3,4,5 & 6**

Please head over to the School
Spider app right now to book
your child's meal. Don't miss out
on this tasty lunch!



**LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE**





Please ensure your child brings a standard **school book bag** instead of a rucksack/backpack to school. Due to limited storage space on classroom hooks, rucksacks are causing health and safety issues. Book bags are required to keep cloakrooms tidy and safe.

Thank you for your cooperation.





Cool Milk



Notice regarding Change of School Milk Supplier for KS1 & Early Years Centre

We would like to inform you that from Monday 13th April 2026, the school will be changing our milk supplier to Cool Milk.

This change has been made following a review of our current provision to ensure we continue to offer high quality products while maintaining value for money and reliable service. The milk provided will continue to meet school food standards and will remain fresh, appropriately stored and suitable for children.

Mid- morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional; boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children will receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid morning milk at a subsidised cost.

If you'd like to opt in simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents or scan the QR code below to register.

Should you have any questions or need help, send us a message on www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below.

Tel: 0800 321 3248





KEY STAGE 1 & EARLY YEARS CENTRE

FUEL YOUR... LITTLE HEROES!



Dear parent/guardian,

As you may be aware your child's school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Mid-morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents. Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late – our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at www.coolmilk.com/parents.

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below – we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☐ : 0800 321 3248
☐ : www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DHSC via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Defra via the School Milk Scheme.

Cool Milk at School Ltd | Cool Milk House | Kingsley Park | Kingsley Road | Lincoln | LN6 3TA | ☎ 0800 321 3248 | 🌐 www.coolmilk.com



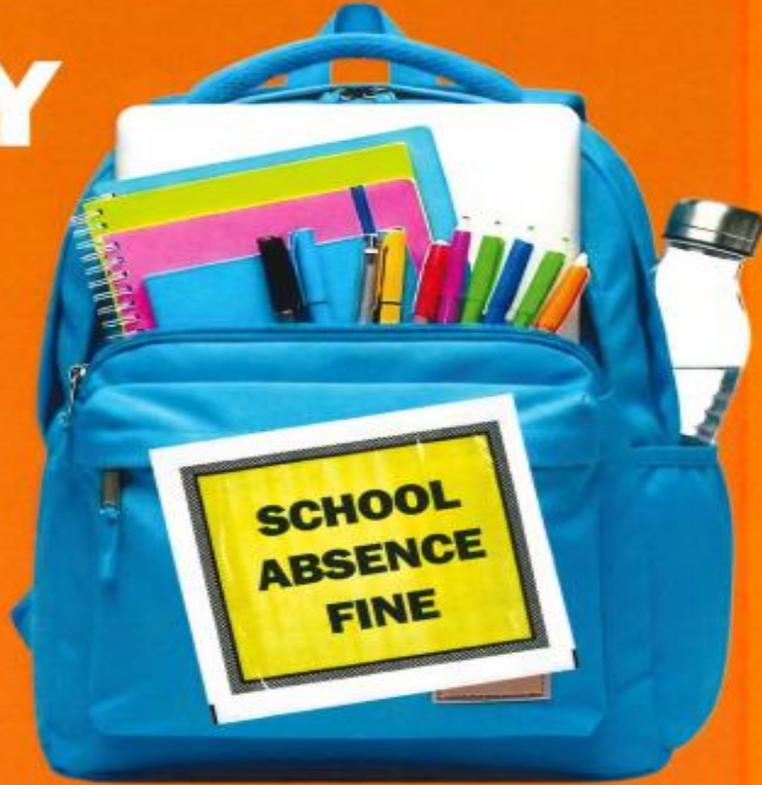
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PENALTY NOTICE FINES

If your child misses school without authorisation you may be issued a fine



FIRST OFFENCE

If a parent receives a penalty notice for a child, they will need to pay **£160 (within 28 days)**. However, the fee is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of the notice.

SECOND OFFENCE

If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within three years, it will cost a flat fee of **£160 if paid within 28 days**. There's no option to pay a lower amount.

THIRD/ FURTHER OFFENCES

A parent cannot get a third penalty notice for the same child within three years of the first one. If the parent reaches the limit again within those three years, other actions will be taken instead, like **legal steps or other attendance interventions**.

For further information please visit our website by scanning the QR code or email education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk





TIDDLERS AND TODDLERS



£1

10am–11:30 AM

Term Time Monday Morning

**St James' Church Lounge, St
James' Church Blackburn**



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Free Early Years Education

HOW MANY FREE HOURS YOU CAN GET PER WEEK

	2 year olds	3-4 year olds
* Working families	30 hours	30 hours
*Families receiving additional Government support	15 hours	N/A
All families - Universal offer	N/A	15 hours

*eligibility criteria applies

some eligible families of 2 year olds will be eligible for 15 hours Government support AND 15 hours working families

www.blackburn.gov.uk/free-early-education



RENEW YOUR CODE!

Please remember to renew any free childcare codes by signing into your childcare choices account and reconfirming your details to ensure your child remains eligible for their free early years education entitlement. Statutory guidance requires all parents to reconfirm their entitlement for each term. We cannot accept codes that have not been reconfirmed and approved by BwD. For

further information please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/confirm-details-up-to-date>

Thank you for your support.





ST JAMES' SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERN 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025 INSET 1 & 2 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on INSET 3 Number of openings 75	Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Wednesday 3rd September 2025 Friday 24th October 2025 Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (inc) Monday 3rd November 2025 Thursday 18th December 2025 Friday 19th December 2025
SPRING TERM 2026 INSET 4 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on Number of openings 55	Monday 5th January 2026 Tuesday 6th January 2026 Friday 13th February 2026 Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 (inc) Monday 23rd February 2026 Friday 27th March 2026
SUMMER TERM 2026 Re-open on May Day Closure Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school INSET 5 Number of openings 65	Monday 13th April 2026 Monday 4th May 2026 Friday 22nd May 2026 Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026 (inc) Monday 1st June 2026 Friday 17th July 2026 Monday 20th July 2026





PE Dates

Please note the upcoming **PE dates** for your child's class. On these days, children should come to school **wearing their PE kit**. If your child has their ears pierced, earrings must be removed before school.

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Reception RK and RW	Friday 27 th Feb	Friday 6 th March	Friday 13 th March	Friday 20 th March	Friday 27 th March	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 23 rd Feb Tuesday 24 th Feb	Monday 2 nd March Tuesday 3 rd March	Monday 9 th March Tuesday 10 th March	Monday 16 th March Tuesday 17 th March	Monday 23 rd March Tuesday 24 th March	Monday Tuesday
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 25 th Feb Thursday 26 th Feb	Wednesday 4 th March Thursday 5 th March	Wednesday 11 th March Thursday 12 th March	Wednesday 18 th March Thursday 19 th March	Wednesday 25 th March Thursday 26 th March	Wednesday Thursday
Year 3 3L and 3S	Wednesday 25 th Feb	Monday 2 nd March Wednesday 4 th March	Wednesday 11 th March	Monday 16 th March Wednesday 18 th March	Wednesday 25 th march	Monday Wednesday
Year 4 4A and 4R	Thursday 26 th Feb	Monday 2 nd March Thursday 5 th March	Thursday 12 th March	Monday 16 th March Thursday 19 th March	Thursday 26 th March	Monday Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5M	Monday 23 rd Feb Friday 27 th Feb	Friday 6 th March	Monday 9 th March Friday 13 th March	Friday 20 th March	Monday 23 rd March Friday 27 th March	Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Monday 23 rd Feb Tuesday 24 th Feb	Tuesday 3 rd March	Monday 9 th March Tuesday 10 th March	Tuesday 17 th March	Monday 23 rd March Tuesday 24 th March	Tuesday





attendance ~~MATTERS~~



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES RG & RW WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	99.0%	
RW	99.0%	
1F	97.6%	
1M	95.4%	
2A	94.1%	
2K	95.7%	
3L	93.2%	
3S	96.3%	
4A	98.7%	
4R	95.7%	
5B	98.6%	
5M	96.3%	
6H	98.3%	
6V	95.3%	

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 08:35 on that day.





St. James' Stars of the Week!

Well done everyone, we are very proud of you. Who will be receiving a certificate next week?

Pre-School & Nursery		Zuhaib S, Sara A, Inaya H, Eliza H	
RG	Skylar-Mai. B & Abdurrahman P.	RW	Khadija K & Muhammad Sheth
1M	Amaan P & Yahya V	1F	Adam A & Liyana Z R
2A	M. Ruhan P & Feroz K	2K	Laila A & Zayn P
3S	Ayat A & Fatimah Zahrah H	3L	Amyra M & Hamza F
4R	Anaya P & Mahir K	4A	Sultan A & Ayesha P
5B	Hosino S & Sana.A	5M	Marius D & Yahya V
6V	Karim A M. Eesa F	6H	Aisha Q & Veronika





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

🌸 Exploring Spring 🌸 This week, the children enjoyed spring-themed exploration and play-based learning. At the creative table, children used green playdough with real flowers and natural materials, carefully pressing, poking and arranging them as they created their own spring gardens. This sensory activity encouraged curiosity about nature while strengthening fine motor skills. The children also designed and drew their own flowers, talking about the colours and shapes they could see around them. Using forks as painting tools, they experimented with different textures to create beautiful flower prints. We also explored early maths skills by counting, matching colours and recognising patterns with our colour bears. The children enjoyed sorting and grouping the bears while practising number recognition and developing their problem-solving skills. It was lovely to see the children learning through play, creativity and exploration as we welcomed the signs of Spring together. 🌷 "

Action

Please can you send any photos of your children enjoying Eid celebrations on the Famlyapp next week.

Reception

"This week has been all about sharks! We have been reading a non-fiction text and learning lots of different shark facts. We have drawn sharks, collaged sharks and even wrote a fact about sharks! This has tied in nicely with British Science week and Understanding the World. In maths we are beginning to look at and understand the composition of numbers to 10. This is so that the children have a deeper understanding of number and value. In PE we are continuing with 'net and wall', practising handling a soft ball and working as a team."

Action

Please encourage your children to have a go at zipping up their own coats. To continue with all things Science talk to children about the changing weather and seasons. If anyone does any investigations or experiments at home we would love to see them!



Year Group Updates

Year 1

This week, we have been looking at number to 50. Please use the link below to practise at home.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0dJWfQHF8Y&list=RDe0dJWfQHF8Y&start_radio=1

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/paint-the-squares>

Action

Please if you have not paid for the Year 1 school trip please can you do so as soon as possible

Year 2

"This week on Science Day the children were able to observe, identify and ask questions all about the plants which have been growing in our classroom. They have also been working hard to create their own exciting new characters in English. Next week, they will be writing their own innovated story based on 'Traction Man is Here'. We can't wait to read all about their new characters."

Action

Please continue to read with your child at home, and make sure their reading records are being signed. Thank you for your continuous support.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy and productive week. The children have been completing their NFER tests and have been showing excellent focus and determination throughout. We were very proud of the effort they put into trying their best. In PE, we have begun developing our basketball skills, with a particular focus on dribbling and improving control of the ball. In Maths, we have been learning how to multiply two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, using different strategies to help solve calculations confidently. Overall, the children have worked extremely hard this week and should be very proud of their efforts.

Action

Please read and sign your child's planner 3x per week.

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have began our new English topic focusing on Rosa Parks, where the children created a character profile and explored deeper into her early life. Over the coming weeks, the children will be applying this knowledge to a formal biography write about her life. Meanwhile in maths, the children have been working hard to find equivalent fractions and add two or more fractions together. This week has also marked British Science Week, during which we embraced curiosity about how exercise affects our pulse. We brought our questions to life through hands-on experiments to find the answers.

Action

"Continue to practice timetables at home using Hit The Button and Ur brainy MTC. Ensure homework is complete and read at least three times a week.

"



Year Group Updates

Year 5

"Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this week while completing their NFER assessments. The children approached each test with determination and a positive attitude, and it has been wonderful to see the excellent progress they are making. Their dedication and perseverance are really paying off, and they should feel very proud of their efforts. In addition to their hard work in assessments, the class have also made a fantastic start on their own interpretations of The Great Wave by the Japanese artist Hokusai. The creativity and enthusiasm shown in their artwork has been fantastic, and we are excited to see their final pieces develop over the coming weeks."

Action

Please remember to read at least 3 x per week along with making a note of the days you have read and a signature by a parent/ guardian. Thank you!

Year 6

This week the children completed their final set of mock SATs in preparation for the real examinations in May. They showed great effort, determination, and focus throughout the week, which is something they should be very proud of. As we move closer to May, it is important that they continue to stay motivated and maintain this positive attitude towards their learning. With continued hard work, practice, and perseverance over the coming weeks, they will be well prepared and confident when the official SATs begin.

Action

Children should continue to read regularly at home and ensure that all homework is completed to support their learning and preparation for the upcoming SATs.



Prayer for the Week

Dear God

Help us to love the world we live in.
Help us to have the courage to be exceptional in all we do.
Help us to respect the people around us
Thank you for making our school your home.

Amen



Follow the school on social media to keep up to date on what is happening in and around school!

Facebook: [@StJamesCofEBlackburn](#)

Twitter: [@st_blackburn](#)

Please note that you don't need to have an account to view our social media pages.

